

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1623

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF PORT ST. JOHNS MAY HASTEN
TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE

REF: DURBAN A-107; DURBAN 0376

1. REVERSING PREVIOUS SAG POSITION, BANTU ADMINISTRATION DEPT OFFICIALS HAVE RECOMMENDED TO MINISTER TRANSFER OF PORT ST. JOHNS TO TRANSKEI. OTHER RECOMMENDED TRANSFERS INCLUDE 56 KILOMETER CORRIDOR IN MATATIELE DISTRICT (DURBAN A-107) AND THREE SMALL BITS OF LAND ALONG WESTERN TRANSKEI BORDER. IN STATEMENT RELEASED IN PRETORIA DECEMBER 11, MINISTER BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BOTHA STRESSED THAT SUGGESTED TRANSFERS WERE ONLY RECOMMENDATIONS; THEY WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL BANTU AFFAIRS COMMISSION HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH INTERESTED WHITES IN JANUARY AND PROPOSALS WERE FINALLY APPROVED BY HIM AND, ULTIMATELY, BY PARLIAMENT.

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2. COMMENT: DESPITE MINISTER'S DISCLAIMERS, IT CLEAR NEW

PROPOSALS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED UNLESS THEY REPRESENTED SAG THINKING. ALTHOUGH A FAR CRY FROM FULFILLING CHIEF MATANZIMA'S PAST EXTENSIVE LAND DEMANDS, WHICH ENCOMPASSED THREE WHOLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS AND LARGE PORTIONS OF TWO OTHERS IN ADDITION TO WHITE ENCLAVE OF PORT ST. JOHNS, PROPOSED CONCESSIONS MAY IN FACT SATISFY MATANZIMA. SINCE OCTOBER ELECTION CAMPAIGN (DURBAN 376) MATANZIMA -- IN SHARP DEPARTURE FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION -- HAS REPEATEDLY PROMISED HIS FOLLOWERS INDEPENDENCE WITHIN FIVE YEARS EVEN THOUGH ALL HIS LAND CLAIMS WERE NOT MET. HE HAS MOREOVER CONSIDERABLY MODERATED HIS PUBLIC POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES AND HAS INCREASINGLY BEEN SAYING THINGS PLEASING TO SAG'S EARS, E.G., YESTERDAY'S SPEECH IN UMTATA WARNING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF TERRORISTS IN ADDITION TO ARAB NATIONS IMPOSING OIL BOYCOTT ON SOUTH AFRICA TO "MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS" AND STOP TRYING TO "DESTROY WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED HERE". THIS NEW STANCE HAS GIVEN RISE TO SUSPICIONS THAT HE HAD REACHED SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE WITH SAG OVER LAND ISSUE.

3. PROMISE OF PORT ST. JOHNS, EVEN THOUGH OF MORE SYMBOLIC THAN ACTUAL IMPORTANCE AS USEABLE HARBOR, MAY ENCOURAGE MATANZIMA TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, MUCH TO DELIGHT OF SAG, WHICH HAS OBVIOUSLY DESIRED AT LEAST ONE OF THE HOMELANDS TO REACH THAT STATUS TO PROVE VALIDITY OF ITS SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

HOLMES

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